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**INTO THE NIGHT: A NEWSLETTER
FOR FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL
PRISONERS HELD IN THE U.S.**

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GILLAM KERLEY RELEASED BY COURT OF APPEALS

We are happy to report that Gillam Kerley was released from Leavenworth Prison Camp by the Court Of Appeals. We do not believe in the System of Justice as used in the U.S. so we will not comment on the motives behind this latest development. We are happy that Mr. Kerley has been released. We demand that he remain free.

Gillam Kerley
PO Box 246
Madison, WI 53701

or

Committee Against Registration
and the Draft
Midwest Office: 731 State St.,
Madison, WI 53791-9482

Karl Kabat, omi has been moved to
the following address: Carl
Kabat, omi 03230-045,
FCI, Sandstone, MI 55072

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Cathedral Station, NY, NY 10025
\$6 for 6 issues.

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CROSSROAD, Spear and Shield
Publications, 1340 W. Irving
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43383, Tucson, AZ 85733
Subs: \$15 Regular, \$7-\$10 Low
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While not a publication we would
like to thank JACOBIN BOOKS, Box
416 Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn,
NY 11215 for donating several
magazines for our perusal. Send
\$1 for their catalog.

MOVE POLITICAL PRISONERS

ALBERTA AFRICA	#6660
CONSUEWELLA (DOTSON) AFRICA	#6434
SUE (LEON) AFRICA	#6325
JANINE (PHILLIPS) AFRICA	#6309
JANET (HOLLAWAY) AFRICA	#6308
DEBBIE (SIMS) AFRICA	#6307
MERLE (AUSTIN) AFRICA	#6306
RAMONA (JOHNSON) AFRICA	#7564

P.O. BOX 180
MUNCY, PA 17756

CHARLES (SIMS) AFRICA	M4975
DELBERT (ORR) AFRICA	M4985
CARLOS (PEREZ) AFRICA	M7400
ALFONSO (ROBBINS) AFRICA	Y5522

DRAWER K
DALLAS, PA 18612

WILLIAM (PHILLIPS) AFRICA	M4984
EDWARD (GOODMAN) AFRICA	M4974

P.O. BOX 200
CAMP HILL, PA 17011

MICHAEL (DAVIS) AFRICA	M4973
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DRAWER R
HUNTINGDON, PA 16652

ROMONA AFRICA AGAIN DENIED PAROLE

The Parole Board PA denied MOVE member Romona Africa parole and will not consider again until June 1988. The Govt continues it's genocidal war against the people.

DAVID GILBERT serving 75 years to Life for expropriation of funds from Capitalists Brinks, Nyack, NY 10/20/81 is organizing behind bars for prisoner education project on AIDS. D. Gilbert, 83A615B Box 618, Auburn, NY 13024-9000.

We would like to present information and articles from the **OHIO 7**. Their trial in Hartford, CT is coming up soon and we'd like to ask our readers to support these brave individuals in their battle with the fascist.

We are able to offer word processing/typesetting to progressive org or prisoner groups at a rate of \$10 per hour using either **WORDSTAR** or **WORDPERFECT**. Dot-Matrix NLQ included; Laser printing \$1 per page. We have access to IBM comp pc, and rent time on Laser printer.

How do you fight:

USA SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

MILLIONS FOR THE CONTRAS

RACIST POLICE VIOLENCE?

The Ohio 7 are charged with:

19 ARMED ATTACKS ON US MILITARY, CORPORATE, & JUDICIAL TARGETS

RESISTANCE IS NOT A CRIME!



HARTFORD FDC—1987: JAAN LAAMAN, RICHARD WILLIAMS, BARBARA CURZI-LAAMAN, CAROL ANN MANNING, TOM MANNING, PAT GROS LEVASSEUR, RAYMOND LUC LEVASSEUR

SEDITIONOUS CONSPIRACY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

**The US Government Wants to Silence & Imprison People
Who Demand an End to Criminal US Foreign Policies and
FIGHT FOR CHANGE AT HOME.**

THE SEDITION COMMITTEE plans to use the trial of the OHIO 7 to publicize the history and politics of the Resistance Movement in the USA. We will subvert the government's effort to criminalize the OHIO 7 by sharing information about their lives and struggle. Individually and as a group they worked in the veterans' movement against the Vietnam war, in the prisoners' support movement, to organize women's health and childcare services, and in anti-apartheid and community fund-raising. They are a part of the clandestine movement in the USA.

THE SEDITION COMMITTEE *Call us in Mass. at (413) 586-4407
Or write to us in NYC at PO Box 530, Cathedral Sta., NY, NY 10025*

THE GOVERNMENT CALLS IT CONSPIRACY -- WE CALL IT RESISTANCE

In the Springfield, Mass Federal Courthouse, three women and four men will be tried for seditious conspiracy and two counts of RICO (facing a possible 60 years each!). RICO is a law designed to attack organized crime. Recently the government has begun using it against progressive political movements in an attempt to criminalize resistance to U.S. policies. Historically the government has used sedition against the anti-slavery abolitionists, the IWW and early labor movement and against the left during the McCarthy era in the 50's. This particular sedition statute has only been used a handful of times against the Puerto Rican Independence Movement. The indictment charges these folks with conspiring to overthrow, put down, oppose by force and hinder and delay the execution of laws of the U.S. You do not have to actually do anything besides talk/agree, to be found guilty of this extremely broad conspiracy law. It is very possible that the government is using this case to see if these kinds of charges can be easily used against all kinds of progressive movements.

The people on trial are called the OHIO 7, because five of them were captured in that state. They are North American anti-imperialists who believe armed resistance is one of the necessary responses to apartheid, racism, sexism, the massacres of Native Peoples and capitalist backed wars.

The OHIO 7 have worked to expose the combined corporate and military network of the U.S. that has been and is the source of most of the rampant violence, repression and economic terrorism throughout the world since Germany's Third Reich. These people are a key target of the U.S. government because they have a clear understanding of its policies and the necessity of developing underground resistance as part of the overall opposition to these policies.

The Ohio 7 have already been tried for 11 actions of the United Freedom Front in the N.Y.C. area between '82 and '84, against targets such as the South African government agency responsible for import/export trade with U.S. corporations. IBM computers and GM trucks fueled with SHELL and MOBIL oil are used by the South African police and military to conduct surveillance operations and detain, torture and kill Black South Africans. Also U.S. military and corporate institutions that support and supply the ILLEGAL colonization of Puerto Rico, the right wing dictatorship in El Salvador and the murderous contra attacks against the People of Nicaragua. In this trial the 7 will be retried for all these actions as well as 8 others carried out against similar facilities by the Sam Melville-Jonathan Jackson Unit, in New England from '76 to '79.

The U.S. government attempts to criminalize the OHIO 7 while continually financing domestic and international terrorism. Massive police power in collusion with corporate interests constantly tries to destroy progressive and revolutionary movements. The FBI-directed Joint Terrorist Task Force, the Secret Police of Chile, the Death Squads of Guatemala, the Apartheid Police of South Africa and the racist Police Departments of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles..., are all connected - by U.S. government support.

Learn more about this important case. The Ohio 7 need and want your communication and support. Write to the Ohio 7, Raymond Luc Levasseur, Pat Gros Levasseur, Carol Manning, Tom Manning, Richard Williams, Jaan Laaman and Barbara Curzi Laaman at FDC Hartford, P.O. Box 178, Hartford CT 06101.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

RAYMOND LUC LEVASSEUR

JAAN KARL LAAMAN

THOMAS WILLIAM MANNING

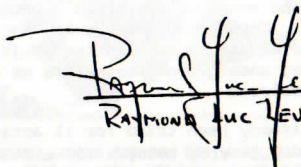
RICHARD CHARLES WILLIAMS

PETITIONERS

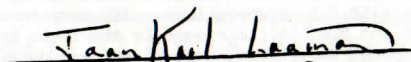
CR. NO. 86-180-Y

CHARGE: SEDITIONARY CONSPIRACY
(18 USC 2384) and RICO
(18 USC 1962 C and d)

PETITION FOR DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL
OF CRIMINAL CHARGES AND OTHER
RELIEF UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW *



RAYMOND LUC LEVASSEUR, PRO SE



JAAN KARL LAAMAN, PRO SE

ON behalf of:

THOMAS WILLIAM MANNING
RICHARD CHARLES WILLIAMS

DATED: JUNE 8, 1987
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

I. INTRODUCTION

THE PETITIONERS, ALL OF WHOM ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS, ARE CHARGED IN A 24-PAGE INDICTMENT WITH VIOLATIONS OF 18 U.S.C. 1962 (C) AND (D), RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATION; AND SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY. THE INDICTMENT ACCUSES PETITIONERS OF CONSTITUTING A "CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE" --- IN ORDER TO FURTHER THEIR POLITICAL GOALS."

PETITIONERS ARE ALSO ACCUSED OF CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW BY FORCE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF DESCRIBING THIS CONSPIRACY AS A "REVOLUTIONARY ANTI-IMPERIALIST ORGANIZATION" CREATED AND ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGAGING IN AND CONDUCTING "ARMED ATTACKS ON MILITARY, POLICE AND GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS." AND THAT PETITIONERS DID STATE (AS PART OF THIS CONSPIRACY) THAT "WE MUST CONTINUE TO ATTACK U.S. IMPERIALISM" (EMPHASIS ADDED)

THESE POLITICAL PRISONERS FACE 60 ADDITIONAL YEARS IN PRISON UNDER U.S. CRIMINAL LAW FOR "FURTHERING" THEIR POLITICAL GOALS, I.E., BEING PART OF BUILDING A REVOLUTIONARY RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. (ALL ARE PRESENTLY SERVING BETWEEN 45 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON).

THESE PETITIONERS AND THE MOVEMENT OF WHICH THEY ARE A PART ARE BEING PROSECUTED UNDER U.S. CRIMINAL LAW FOR FIGHTING IN SUPPORT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE PUERTO RICAN NATION AND IN SUPPORT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS UNDER THE DOMINATION OF U.S. IMPERIALISM INCLUDING THE BLACK/NEW AFRICAN NATION WITHIN THE BORDERS OF THE U.S.

ADDITIONALLY, THESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE BEING PROSECUTED UNDER DOMESTIC U.S. LAW FOR EXERCISING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES UNDER THE NUREMBERG PRINCIPLES, I.E., THAT THEY ARE PART OF A POLITICAL MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE ACTED TO OPPOSE THE CRIMINAL ACTS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ENGAGED IN, IN CENTRAL AMERICA, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

AT A TIME WHEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S CRIMINAL POLICIES AGAINST THE INDEPENDENT NATION OF NICARAGUA ARE BEING EXPOSED DAILY, THESE PETITIONERS

STAND ACCUSED OF ACTING IN SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT OF THE NICARAGUAN NATION AND ITS PEOPLE.

PETITIONERS ARE BEING CHARGED IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED TO ANTI-COLONIAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WHICH SHOULD BE APPLIED TO ~~THESE~~ PETITIONERS - AS ALLIES OF THOSE SAME ANTI-COLONIAL STRUGGLES.

FURTHERMORE, PROSECUTION OF THESE CHARGES IS A DIRECT VIOLATION OF OUR RIGHTS OUTLINED IN THE NUREMBERG PRINCIPLES.

CLEAR PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, DERIVED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (REQUIRING THE END OF COLONIALISM EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD) PROHIBIT THE ATTEMPTED "CRIMINALIZATION" OF COMBATANTS CAPTURED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE FREEDOM OF A COLONY. WE MAINTAIN THAT THESE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO CAPTURED COMBATANTS SUCH AS OURSELVES, WHO ARE ALLIED WITH AND SUPPORT ANTI-COLONIAL, INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLES.

WE ALSO INVOKED THE PRINCIPLES OF NUREMBERG.

THESE STANDARDS FROM THE LAW OF NATIONS AND WHAT ARE COMMONLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES ARE FULLY BINDING ON THIS COURT AND REQUIRE DISMISSAL OF DOMESTIC CRIMINAL CHARGES, OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, REMOVAL OF THIS CASE TO AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, FOR DETERMINATION OF PETITIONERS' CLAIM.

PETITIONERS RECOGNIZE THAT THIS COURT IS AN AGENCY OF A COLONIZING POWER AND THE VERY GOVERNMENT THAT CARRIES OUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THAT WE ARE CHALLENGING CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ACT AGAINST ITS PARAMOUNT GEOPOLITICAL INTERESTS REGARDLESS OF LAW OR TRUTH. NOR DO

WE HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS THAT THE COURT WILL FOLLOW THE DICTATES OF APPLICABLE INTERNATIONAL LAW.

HOWEVER, EVEN IF THE COURT DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE POINTS OF BINDING INTERNATIONAL LAW URGED UPON IT HEREIN, IT MUST STILL PROVIDE SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF FBI "COUNTERINSURGENCY" AND "COUNTERINTELLIGENCE" REPORTS AND RECORDS TO DETERMINE THE LEGALITY OF PROFFERED EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY AND TO REDRESS PREJUDICE WORKED BY THE DELIBERATE SOLICITATION OF DEFAMATORY PUBLICITY (E.G. BOSLUK'S "WESTERN SLEEP" COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION, ONE OF THE TARGET AREAS BEING WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS) TO PREVENT THE GOVERNMENT FROM ITS INTENDED USE OF THE PROCEEDING AS A PROPAGANDA ATTACK ON THE REVOLUTIONARY ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT AND INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLES.

THE POLITICAL PRISONERS

EACH OF THESE PRISONERS HAS A LONG HISTORY OF COMMITMENT AND WORK IN THE PROTRACTED STRUGGLE OF FIGHTING FOR SCIENTIST REVOLUTION AND SUPPORTING NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND WITHIN THE U.S. "BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY"

EACH IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO FIGHTING WHITE SUPREMACY

Twenty years after returning from Vietnam I am a soldier still at war.

I didn't return with Post-Vietnam stress disorder but I had gone from a 19 year old millworker with an obligatory duty to serve his country to becoming enraged by my participation in greasing the wheels of an occupation army that was bleeding the Vietnamese people to death.

When discharged in September, 1968 I began doing anti-war and other political work with the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC). The war was not an isolated issue with these folks, it was endemic to a system that produced for profit rather than human needs. The people of Appalachia weren't benefiting from cluster bombs or agent orange; neither were the people who rose up in Detroit's ghetto in '67, leaving much of that city looking like Hue after the Tet offensive. You can't live life as it should be with the jackboot of oppression on your neck.

While working with SSOC I was set up and busted for selling \$7.00 worth of marijuana to an undercover agent. For less herb than I'd smoked on many a Vietnam night I was expelled from a university and received a maximum five year prison sentence. I had no prior record and no money. I became a political prisoner whose jacket said - he is an organizer, an agitator and he will resist. Into the bowels of the world's largest and most racist prison system I went, meeting other vets along the way, every one of whom felt burned.

The conditions were horrible and discriminating. We were all working class and lumpen, from the millions of marginalized workers living on the fringe of unemployment and the drug plague. As rotten food led to intestinal illness, weight loss and misery, there was a prisoners strike and list of grievances that got me a ticket to the segregation unit of the Tennessee State prison and then to another seg. unit that was part of death row. I lived with those who were condemned to die - almost all of whom were Black.

Eventually I was transferred to Brushy Mountain super-max, that house of the dead with a mountain for a rear wall, locked down and ready to burst at the seams. The only public attention at all given to the prison was when a news commentary focused on the number of prisoners thought to be mentally impaired or driven to madness. Within a year after I paroled in 1971, Brushy exploded with guards and prisoners dying in its wake.

Joining VVAW in '72 I became a state organizer. Focus was beginning to be on the air war. We organized demonstrations and workshops, working with many organizations who were looking to VVAW to pull the anti-war movement out of its lethargy and expose Nixon's scam in cutting back on some of the ground troops. I spoke to thousands in schools, churches, community meetings and demonstrations. We explained the electronic battlefield, cluster bombs and talked about what we had seen in 'Nam from hunger and death to the bomb devastated land.

We went to the area VA hospital to look for our brothers that we knew were warehoused there. Still with me was the memory of the treatment my grandfather (a WW I vet) had received at the same VA

hospital. At 17 I had gone there to bring him home to die because he didn't want to be treated with neglect in the corner of a VA ward.

We found our brothers, young 'Nam vets, with drug and alcohol problems, alienated and forgotten by the VA administrators. We did what we could, including getting them out on weekend excursions, but it's never enough is it, when you're not empowered to determine most directly those factors that effect your life and community.

As the war wound down I became more involved with organizations that did a broad range of community work. We organized a prisoners union, supported the Attica brothers, began a community bail fund, scratched the heap for jobs and ways to feed and house people. We supported welfare rights, taught community Karate classes, put out a paper that brought news of the Black Liberation struggle, Southern Africa, political trials, etc.. We opened a bookstore and began a free books to prisoners program.

Then the cops moved in and it began to limit the choices.

Twenty years after returning from Vietnam, I stand accused with seven others (including Tom Manning, another 'Nam vet) of 'seditious conspiracy' and RICO violations of federal law.

We call the sedition statute the "John Brown law" because it was passed by Congress in 1861, two years after John Brown's guerrilla unit was defeated at Harpers Ferry and most certainly a reaction to that historic battle. This was also a time when guerrilla fighter Harriet Tubman travelled the underground railroad with escaped slaves and the Dred Scott decision by the U.S. supreme court ruled that Black people were less than human and not entitled to the rights and protections of citizenship.

It's also been said that this statute was passed at a time when union troops, defeated at the Battle of Bull Run, were retreating into Washington D.C., armed and pissed off.

The government of the United States does not want any more freedom fighters like John Brown and Harriet Tubman or Don Albizu Campos, the great leader of the Puerto Rican Independence struggle.

While sedition charges have historically been used against labor organizers, anti-war activists, communists and other dissidents, the seditious conspiracy statute has been used exclusively against the Puerto Rican Independence movement. many of whose members have refused to recognize U.S. jurisdiction over their nation and taking a POW position as captured combatants of an anti-colonial war.

The indictment of the Ohio 8 represents the first time 'seditious conspiracy' has been used to prosecute anyone other than Puerto Rican independentistas. The Ohio 8 are one Black and seven white, men and women of working class backgrounds.

Sedition laws have a particularly insidious aspect to them. The government draws the line at what they think is acceptable political activity; defining what sort of resistance will be tolerated and which will be destroyed. But if they come for us today they will be looking for others tomorrow and history bears this out.

Seditious conspiracy states that it is unlawful to form an agreement to oppose by force or overthrow the government of the U.S.. The important thing here is that only an agreement need be demonstrated for a conviction and 20 year sentence. You do not have to have engaged in any independent illegal act to carry forward this agreement. You can be indicted and convicted under this law without ever leaving your house. This should be a concern to all people and organizations (including VVAW) that have ever engaged in serious discussion about this criminal government of ours.

Intended as a slap in the face, veterans convicted for seditious conspiracy lose all their benefits and are not entitled to the flag draped coffin upon their death.

In Vietnam we carried with us our code of conduct instructions, dog tags and if captured expected to be treated as POW's under the Geneva Convention. No matter how immoral some of our actions may have been we were protected from being tried as criminals in Vietnamese courts.

This soldier is still at war. I have, with three of my co-defendants in this case, petitioned the U.S. district court to dismiss or remove the criminal charges against us and other relief under international law. We have asked that our case be removed from U.S. criminal court to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for a determination of our claim.

There are clear principles of international law, derived from the United Nations Charter and resolutions that prohibit the attempted criminalization of combatants captured in the struggle for the freedom of a colony (e.g. Puerto Rico). We maintain that this law should be extended to captured combatants such as ourselves who support and are allied with anti-colonial, independence struggles.

In addition, we are being prosecuted under U.S. law for exercising our responsibilities and duty under the Nuremberg principles in that we have acted to oppose the criminal acts and human rights violations that the U.S. government engages in, in Central America, Southern Africa and within its own borders.

Because I am a U.S. citizen and do not represent a "nation" at war (as I did as a soldier in Vietnam) I do not take a POW position based on Geneva. I am a political prisoner.

The Nuremberg principles were created in response to the onslaught of fascism in Europe and Japan and to further empower people to resist war crimes and crimes against humanity. It can be said that to not resist these crimes is to be an accomplice to them. I will be no accomplice to the murder of Nicaraguan farm-workers and health workers nor to U.S. supported fascism in South Africa.

When captured by FBI counterinsurgency forces in November, 1984, I refused to collaborate with them, giving them only my name, date and place of birth. Since capture, I have, along with some of my comrades, been beaten, attacked with 40,000 volt stun guns and put in isolation cells. One of our women comrades has been sexually abused by guards. Our children were interrogated and terrorized by federal and state agents and the three young children of Carol and Tom Manning were 'disappeared' for two months, held communicad~~o~~, until

(4)

a public outcry forced their release to family members. This government does not recognize the human rights of children anywhere in the world.

For ten years I was underground in this country, clandestine, working as far as possible from the eyes and ears of the government, their agents and provocateurs. While U.S. supplied death squads ravaged El Salvador and the Contras attack Nicaragua I was part of a movement that resisted those actions as we did with U.S. policy and corporations that are essential to maintaining the apartheid regime in South Africa. While Puerto Rico remains a colonial possession of the U.S. I remain on active duty. When Black people like Eleanor Bumpers, Michael Stewart and Michael Harris and countless others are brutally murdered by killer cops and racist gangs, I was prepared to move.

The government didn't mind training me as a young soldier to kill at their command and to serve their vested interests, but they quiver at the thought of our fighting for workers rather than bosses and supporting a struggling nations freedom rather than its annihilation.

This is a country where one-third of homeless men are veterans. A painful reality in a country with such abundant resources. What bothers me most though is the sheer number of all homeless people and their suffering, particularly the children. You can't sit on your ass when people are dying from neglect. I don't identify with the criminals like Reagan, Bush, Casey and the multinationals. Their power and wealth are built on the backs of workers and peasants from Central America to the South Bronx.

I am a soldier who returned to another war. A vet who wore the enamel pin of the NLF on his fatigues. No CIB badge or combat pay for me, just the satisfaction of doing something based on moral principles and political conviction that finds me acting with people throughout the world. People who dream of bread and roses and fight for a future without racism, repression or economic exploitation and in which we can live in peace.

Raymond Luc Levasseur

August 3, 1987

Ray Levasseur and Tom Manning can be written to thru the
Committee to Fight Repression
Box 1435, Cathedral Station
New York, N.Y. 10025

"The issue is courage.
Whether to flee or fight or seek accomodation"

In conventional military forces it is an axiom that a soldier never lets his/her rifle fall to the ground. There are several reasons for this: to avoid accidental discharge, to prevent damage to the weapon and to avoid contamination with dirt.

To drop one's weapon is also symbolic of defeat.

The unconventional soldier - or guerrilla - is armed with more than a rifle. S/he is also armed with ideology and a will to fight that is rooted in the class and national character of those whose liberation we risk our lives for.

The guerrilla is a political-military soldier. Revolutionary in orientation; military in operations. When the captured guerrilla loses his rifle s/he is neither weaponless nor defeated. Even imprisonment or death cannot rob us of the ideals and principles upon which we base a lifetime of struggle. National liberation and socialist revolution cannot be snuffed out so easily. The most serious defeat we can suffer at the hands of the enemy is to surrender our principles for then we have stripped the will to fight from our hearts. If there is any rehabilitation program in the minds of our captors it revolves around capitulation.

The enemy designs propaganda and isolation units to break us down and destroy our spirits. They will exploit any sign of weakness and maximize our losses. They kill some of us and bury others with decades of time. They play on white supremacy, sexism and the brutality of prison. They isolate leaders and selected individuals while trying to rub our noses in the dirt. They attempt to disarm us, realizing that we are revolutionaries, not criminals.

The guerrilla is no armchair revolutionary. One does not rely on university degrees, class privileges or artificial bravado to carry out one's duty to make the revolution. This applies whether in the field or in the penitentiary. We must recognize that it is the intention of our captors to make us suffer for our political commitment. As in the 'Myth of Sisyphus' they have sentenced us to what they think is hell on earth - a futile lifetime of trying to reach the top of a mountain whose peak always seems beyond reach.

But these are fools with their hierarchical way of thinking. Time and conditions change but some things do not and one is the essence of the guerrilla which flows from the hearts and minds of people willing to resist and wage war against imperialism. We are never without means to resist unless we're clinically dead or abandon our principles.

The FMLN (El Salvador) began with two .38 pistols; the Vietnamese with a half dozen rifles and the Sandanista's with not much more. The resistance in Azania has continued to grow in the face of the most vicious fascism on this earth and we are all aware of the heroic beginnings and victory of the Cuban revolution. Each of these struggles suffered extraordinary setbacks but never lost sight of their goals or a simple fact of life that they would rather die fighting than to live on their knees. To paraphrase Fidel - you don't have to be a communist to be a revolutionary but you damn well better be ready to fight.

While we look for our weapons left behind to be picked up and utilized by others, this is not always the case. The struggle ebbs and flows based on many factors and we must adjust to this reality. The level of support for captured combatants and political prisoners

is not what it could or should be. To some degree this is directly related to mass organization's unwillingness to intergrate the political prisoner/POW issues with National liberation/class struggles. While this can be discouraging and requires more analysis and planning, we must not let such a decline in mass struggle at a particular point in time dampen our efforts to advance ourselves as revolutionaries. We need to redouble our efforts to put the plight of political prisoners/POW's on the agenda of mass organizations.

The urban jungle does not field soldiers with camo's, field packs and M-16's. It produces armed guerrillas with the political and military skills to wage a protracted struggle that can lead to mass mobilization and people's war; cadre that must develop fundamental skills, organization, moral character, courage and commitment. All under conditions that are far from ideal.

This process does not end when we are captured. We do not waiver at the first sight of the interrogator or in the face of beatings, seperation from our children and comrades or the years in isolation cells. If one thing the guerrilla experiance teaches it's to overcome the odds - by any means necessary.

In the kamps we must summon up the same skills and commitment that have enabled us to elude and battle the enemy for extended periods of time in clandestinity. Resistance isn't a strategy we begin at the time of capture, it's a strategy we continue in spite of being captured. The more severe the isolation the greater the challenge to persevere and it is a challenge we must spare no effort to take on.

Within the kamps political prisoners/POW's naturally gravitate to each other. We are natural allies. The kamp commanders are aware of this and if they don't break it up with transfers or control units they put it under surveillance by their lackeys. We need to be aware of this while recognizing that solidarity among political prisoners/POW's is one of our foremost weapons.

We do not collaborate with the enemy. The intense propaganda battles called trials are the first step after capture to fight criminalization and let our voices be heard. The demands of clandestinity are well suited to the kamps. Security has always been paramount to avoid eyes and ears; without initiative we know we cannot succeed and we must be inovative and flexible; we recognize the importance of self-discipline, political education, strong bodies and maintaining our health; we emphasize moral character and respect the more spiritual needs of some of our comrades; we share old skills and learn new ones; we learn who to trust and who not to trust; we analyze and criticize and learn from our errors; we acquire patience and we adjust to being without and make the most of what we have when we have it; we learn to go it alone when necessary in hostile enviroments but know the day will come when "... dawn is no longer beyond our reach."

In conclusion, I am reminded of something told to me many years ago by a fellow worker. He said that it takes as much courage to carry a lunch pail to a sweatshop every day to feed your kids as it does to shoulder a weapon. There's an element of truth to this little parable and we would do well not to lose sight of it as we continue the fight for political recognition and survival.

Raymond Luc Levasseur

COMMUNITY THREAT?

A community and anti-apartheid activist and musician who's devoted his entire adult life to ending racism and the economic oppression of his people.

'70s. Factory worker and member of the United Rubber Workers' Union. Direct experience as a labor organizer.

'70s. Cultural worker with Haymarket People's Foundation. Administered funds to hundreds of grassroots organizations including the first Battered Women's Shelter in Boston, Prisoner's Rights groups and U.S. Anti-Apartheid support groups.

'79. Key organizer of nationally famous Amandla/Southern Africa Support Concert in Cambridge, Mass. featuring Bob Marley.

For this event, was a director of operations for the Amandla People's Security teams which trained hundreds of women and men in the martial arts to provide community based security for the concert.

Co-founder of "Amandla" -- a community security organization providing support and security for events, rallies and marches in the Boston area stemming from the profound success of the security project at the Amandla/Southern Africa Support Concert.

1982. Received an absurdly harsh sentence for illegal weapons charges. 1982-1987. Withstood five and a half years of incarceration for the above charges; never ceasing to continue his political work from "behind the wall."

Now. On trial in Boston Federal Courthouse for SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY. More absurd claims and racist attacks for which he needs our help and show of support throughout this trial!

SHOW SUPPORT IN THE COURTROOM! BOSTON FED. BLDG.

For more information:
P.O. Box 481 Cambridge, MA. 02139
or
P.O. Box 530 Cathedral Sta. N.Y. N.Y. 10025

KAZI TOURE

OR COMMUNITY ASSET!

THE FACTS.

Kazi Touré, s/n Chris King, is a 37 year old Black man from Boston, Mass. who's currently on trial there for SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY and "RICO" charges. He is the first person of African descent to be tried for seditious conspiracy in the United States.

Seditious conspiracy is conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government; and "RICO" charges indict an individual for "being in agreement" with so-called illegal acts to further an organization's political goals. One Black person on trial alone for attempting to topple the United States government? Are they serious? Yes.

Kazi was indicted along with seven white North American revolutionaries known as the OHIO 7 in June of 1986. The charges stem from the actions of an underground revolutionary organization: the Sam Melville-Johnathan Jackson Unit/United Freedom Front.

While the seven others lived and worked clandestinely, Kazi worked as a community activist, was never underground and has spent the last 5 1/2 years in prison. After a year of fighting within the court system, Kazi's case was severed from the OHIO 7's, but it wasn't dropped.

The reality of Kazi Touré's sedition trial is that the government is basing its charges against him on the legal, above ground organizing he's always done on behalf of his people; of his strong commitment to the struggle of the Black-New African nation and the rights of all Black people. Organizing Black people to defend themselves against racist attacks from a Klan mob to a police riot; from verbal abuse to physical abuse to murder -- is why the U.S. government has singled out Kazi Touré for "sedition."

In 1982, Kazi was arrested and charged with weapons violations and the attempted murder of two state troopers. He was found innocent of the attempted murders and sentenced to five years for the weapons charges.

In April of 1982 agents of the F.B.I. and Massachusetts and New York state police tried to bribe Kazi by offering him \$200,000 plus his freedom if he would "work with them" against the seven others. He refused. Since then the government has waged a vindictive campaign against him including his present condition of being denied bail.

Kazi should never have been included in the seditious conspiracy charges. To base the indictment on acts he's already been found innocent of is a foul, racist attack not only on an African man but against the anti-apartheid, anti-racist and Black Liberation movement which Kazi has been committed to since his youth. Kazi needs our help!

SUPPORT KAZI IN THE COURTROOM! BOSTON FEDERAL COURT BUILDING

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